

TSAC Update

Helping Students Achieve Their Goals Since 1974

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Attention TSAC eSignature Participants:

TSAC is pleased to announce an enhancement that seamlessly links Mapping Your Future's (MYF) entrance counseling functionality with our eSignature functionality. By electing to participate, your students can now complete entrance counseling during the 'esign' process. They will be required to complete an entrance counseling session at the time of 'esign.'

How will it work? When a student attempts to 'esign' via the TSAC web site or your customized eSignature link, the MYF system will be queried for an existing counseling record. If the counseling record exists, the student will proceed with signing. If the counseling record does not exist, the student will be sent to the school's information page and

counseling questions at the MYF site. Once the students have completed a counseling session, they will be returned to the eSignature process. Additionally, schools will have the ability to indicate that counseling has been completed in e*CLIPS and, therefore, not require entrance counseling during the 'esign' process. Access to counseling records and reports will also be available in e*CLIPS via a seamless link to the MYF website.

If you would like to participate in entrance counseling with eSignature or have any questions, please contact the eSignature Help Desk at (877) 993-7445 or speak with Bill or Cathy at the TSAC booth at the upcoming TASFAA conference.

Thank you.

TSAA Certification and Reconciliation Deadlines

It's that time of year again. The certification deadline for the TSAA program is April 15th. Meeting this deadline will assist TSAC in closing out the 2006-07 academic year in a timely manner.

Additionally, the reconciliation deadline is May 15th. Thank

you in advance for completing the reconciliation process and forwarding the last page of the roster to TSAC.

If you are unable to meet either of these deadlines, please contact Naomi Derryberry at (615) 253-7478 or naomi.derryberry@state.tn.us.

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A Message from the Director's Corner

If you missed the March 22 TSAC Board meeting, you missed a good one! Because scheduled meetings come only every six months, they arrive with very full agendas.

The March meeting began with a TASFAA update, which will be a part of all future TSAC board meetings. President-elect Clyde Walker, filling in for Janette Overton, briefed the board on recent TASFAA activities.

Officers for the new year were elected, as noted elsewhere in this issue. And TSAA expenditure levels were approved. In order to fully-expend available 2007-08 TSAA funds, TSAC will issue awards equal to 145% of available resources. This level of "over-commitment" is based on our experience with actual utilization rates in previous years. At this point, prior to receipt of

federal LEAP/SLEAP or any increase in state support, approximately \$44 million is available to be spent in the TSAA program. This means that we will offer nearly \$64 million, in order to actually spend the \$44 million.

In other business, the board was updated on all major TSAC programs, including a final report from the TSAA Taskforce, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of March and September, so it's easy to plan for them well in advance. Please get out your calendar and pencil TSAC in for September 27, 2007. We really do want you to join us. If you can break away for the afternoon, parking and refreshments are on us!

Bob Ruble



TSAC Board Elects new Officers

At its March 22, 2007 meeting, members of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation elected officers and appointed committee members for the 2007-08 year.

Officers and committee members include:

OFFICERS

Chairman: Gov. Phil Bredesen
Vice Chair: Richard Rhoda
Secretary: Claude Pressnell
Treasurer: Dale Sims

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gov. Phil Bredesen, Chair
Dave Goetz
John Morgan
Claude Pressnell
Richard Rhoda
Dale Sims



The March 22 TSAC Board Meeting

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Charles Manning, Chair
John Morgan
John Petersen
Richard Rhoda
Paul Starnes

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Deborah Cole, Chair
Dave Goetz
Clay Petrey

Who is TSAC's Business Affairs expert?

Overseeing TSAC's multi-faceted Business Affairs office is Dan Lee, TSAC's Associate Executive Director for Business Affairs. Lee, who has been with the agency for 15 years, manages the day-to-day fiscal operations. Though TSAC is Lee's first affiliation with the higher education field, he has accumulated over 30 years experience in accounting. On a regular basis, Dan utilizes his knowledge to navigate the unique characteristics of State and Federal fiscal reporting.

This Nashville native received his undergraduate degree from



David Lipscomb. After finishing a tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, Lee attended graduate school at the University of

Tennessee.

Lee is an avid walker who averages over 75 miles a month, year-round. When he's not hitting the pavement, Dan enjoys spending time with his wife of over 30 years, Janice. Dan and Janice are the proud parents of four children that have all decided to pursue a career in education. They eagerly await the graduation of their son and daughter from the University of Tennessee in the near future. Lee, a big fan of Sergio Leone movies, also enjoys the rhythmic styling of Ennio Morricone.

Comments from Dan:

I have witnessed many changes during the years I have been at TSAC, especially with the advent of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program. Through it all, TSAC has remained committed to providing Tennesseans with an array of financial resources to help meet their higher education needs.

Governor Appoints Johnson to Board

TSAC would like to welcome Dr. Fred D. Johnson as the newest member of its board. Dr. Johnson, a Cordova native and member of the Shelby County Board of Education, attended his

first board meeting on March 22.

Dr. Johnson's strong commitment to community is evident in the many civic and community organizations in which he is involved. Along with serving as Educator in Residence with the University of Memphis, College of Education's Center for Urban Leadership he additionally serves as a Senior Science Consultant. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Symphony, Memphis Housing Authority, Shelby County Historical Society, Multiple Sclerosis, Frayser Mental Health, the McKenzie Group and the NAACP. He also presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Downtown Rotary Club, NCCJ, Zoological Society Board, Memphis Area Teachers Credit Union and the Memphis Area Transit Authority.

Dr. Johnson brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience.

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TSAA Taskforce Makes Final Report

A five-person taskforce has completed its eighteen-month review of the Tennessee Student Assistance Award program, and has made its final report to the TSAC Board of Directors.



On September 28, 2006, the TSAC board accepted a taskforce recommendation to advance the TSAA priority date from May 1 to March 1. At the board's March 22, 2007 meeting, taskforce member Russ Deaton presented the final report to the board. The report included a proposed new payment schedule, which the board did not act on.

While no further board action is expected in the near future, the final report forms the basis for future discussion, and will no doubt have an influence on the future of the TSAA program. TSAC is very grateful to Greg, Russ, Naomi, Will and Jeff for their service.

TASKFORCE MEMBERS INCLUDED:

GREG SCHUTZ (CHAIR), TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS
RUSS DEATON, TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
NAOMI DERRYBERRY, TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION
WILL DOYLE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
JEFF GERKIN, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Governor Appoints Johnson to Board (Continued)

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University, his Master of Science degree from the University of Memphis and his Doctorate of Administration and Leadership from the University of Tennessee.

Throughout Johnson's versatile career in education, he has never forgotten that the prime focus of his work is systemic reform efforts and ensuring all children are properly educated to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Johnson would like to see an emphasis put on standard-based instructional programs in science that are integrated with technology. He has lectured and conducted workshops all over the nation as well as in the Philippines and Japan.

Dr. Johnson and his wife Dorothy, also an educator, are the proud parents of daughters, Fredna & Sheraldine and proud grandparents of Courtney and Terrence. We are honored to welcome Dr. Johnson to the TSAC board and look forward to the valuable insight he is sure to provide.



Dr. Johnson is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including:

Science Teacher of the Year
Tennessee Academy of Science
Distinguished Science Educator Award
National Science Teacher's Association
Distinguished Service Award
The National Conference of Community and Justice's Humanitarian Award

New Student Board Member Nominations

It is time to begin the process by which Governor Bredesen will select a student to serve on the TSAC Board of Directors for the 2007-08 term. The Governor will select one student from those who are nominated, as explained below.

Student members alternate between public and private institutions of higher education. Because the 2006-07 student member came from a private university, the 2007-08 student member must come from a public institution. Letters explaining the nomination process have been sent to the chancellors and presidents of all Tennessee public institutions, with copies to the financial aid directors.

- Each public institution is entitled to make one nomination for the 2007-08 student member of the TSAC Board of Directors
- The term of appointment is for one year, July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008
- The student must be or have been a recipient of a financial assistance program administered by TSAC
- The student must be enrolled full-time for the 2007-08 term at the institution
- The institutional process through which the student is nominated must be student approved
- A letter of nomination from the president or chancellor, accompanied by a completed data sheet, should be sent to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation by May 1, 2007
- TSAC will present the nominations to Governor Bredesen by May 15, 2007

If you are aware of qualified students on your public campus, please urge them to apply!



TSAC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation has several employment opportunities currently available.

Current Employment Opportunities;

- Student Information Systems Analyst
- Legal Assistant
- Telephone Counselor
- Outreach Specialist

Please visit our website (<http://www.state.tn.us/tsac/employment.htm>) to learn more.

Compliance/Legal Affairs Division Update

We have 22 applicants for the 2007 high school counselor internship program and 13 institutions that have applied to participate this year. Efforts are underway to match counselors with institutions and notification letters will be sent to counselors and institutions in early April. The training workshop for the counselors is scheduled for June 11-13, 2007 at Fall

Creek Falls. Counselors must attend the training workshop before beginning their internship experience.

This NASFAA award-winning program continues to be a joint effort between TSAC and TASFAA to provide learning and leadership opportunities for school counselors to better serve the students of Tennessee. Your continued support of this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events & Conferences

- ▶ 6/10/07 - 6/13/07
NCHELP Conference
Naples, FL
- ▶ 4/5/07
TSAC Lender Conference
Franklin, TN
- ▶ 4/15/07 - 4/18/07
TASFAA Spring Conference in
Knoxville, TN

Legislative Update

Last month the TSAC Update provided a general description of some of the legislation that has been introduced during the current general session. A listing of the significant bills that TSAC is tracking can be found at the TSAC's website: www.CollegePaysTN.com. [Click here](#) to view the proposed bills for student financial aid.

At the date of publication, few of these bills

have advanced within the established committee structures in the Tennessee Senate and the Tennessee House of Representatives, respectively. It appears many of these bills will be reviewed later in the legislative session and considered on a comparative basis, since many have a significant fiscal effect on state expenditures.

TSAC Training Workshop

TSAC hosted a very successful workshop on March 23. Workshop attendees represented a variety of institutions and experience levels. The evaluation comments were very positive and offered suggestions for future training workshop topics. Future workshop dates will be announced in later issues of the TSAC update.

